

## THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising a body having in greater section a  
5 dimension  $d_1$ , at least one neck that has an internal diameter  $d_2$  and a wall or  
walls forming the body of the container being made of a flexible plastic  
which can deform for constant surface area, particularly under the weight of  
the flowable product contained in the container when the wall or walls  
contact a point or bearing surface, so as to form, at least locally at this  
10 contact, at least one non-planar wall portion, wherein the ratio  $d_2$  to  $d_1$  is  
between 1:3 and 1:10.
2. The container of claim 1, wherein the ratio  $d_2$  to  $d_1$  is  
between 1:4 and 1:10.
3. The container of claim 1, which has a circular or  
15 substantially circular cross section.
4. The container of claim 3, which has an ovoid or substantially  
ovoid overall shape.
5. The container of claim 3, which has a spherical or  
substantially spherical overall shape.
- 20 6. The container of claim 1, wherein when the wall or walls  
contact the point or bearing surface the convexity of the container is at least  
locally inverted and vice versa.
7. The container of claim 1, wherein the plastic used to form the  
wall or walls is a semi-crystalline plastic having a slow rate of  
25 crystallization, a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of 70°C or higher and a  
crystallization temperature  $T_c$  of 140 °C.
8. The container of claim 1, wherein the plastic used to form the  
wall or walls is PET (polyethylene terephthalate) or PEN (polyethylene  
naphthalate).

9. The container of claim 1, wherein the wall or walls forming the body of the container has a thickness of between 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
10. The container of claim 9, wherein the wall thickness is between 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and 70  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- 5        11. The container of claim 1, wherein the body and the neck of the container are made as a single piece.
12. The container of claim 1, wherein, for a working volume of 5 liters, the amount of flexible plastic used to produce the container is about 30 g for resistance to a vertical load of about 65 kg.
- 10        13. The container of claim 1, wherein the body has a bottom that exhibits a planar or roughly planar part.
14. The container of claim 1, wherein the neck is fitted with a closure.
- 15        15. The container of claim 14, wherein the closure comprises a distribution tap which can be operated with one hand.
16. A combination of the container of claim 1 having a variable capacity and a flowable product of water or a liquid beverage.
17. The combination of claim 16 wherein the flowable product is carbonated water or a carbonated beverage.
- 20        18. A method for manufacturing the body of the container of claim 1, which comprises stretch-blow molding of a plastic preform to manufacture the body with an area stretch ratio of between 20 and 50.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the body is molded from PET (polyethylene terephthalate) or PEN (polyethylene naphthalate) and
- 25        with a stretch ratio of between 25 and 35.
20. The method of claim 18, wherein the container is stretch blow molded at a blowing pressure of between about 8 and 13 bar.